

## Part 402 – Idaho Nutrient Management Planner Certification Policy

### Subpart A – General

#### 402.1 Policy

- A. This amendment establishes Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy for providing nutrient management planning assistance to clients, and requirements for nutrient management planning certification.
- B. Plans prepared by NRCS staff for AFO/CAFO or dairy facilities shall comply with minimum requirements of the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Waste Management Guidelines and State law. Certification requirements are consistent between agency and private, third-party providers.

#### 402.2 Definitions

##### A. (5) 1. Certified Nutrient Management Planner –

Category 1 – A trained individual that can develop a Nutrient Management Plan **for application of commercial fertilizer**, and has job approval authority to sign plans he/she prepares.

Category 2 – A trained individual that can develop a Nutrient Management Plan **for application of commercial fertilizer and animal waste**, and has job approval authority to sign plans he/she prepares.

A. (5) 2. Certified Nutrient Management Specialist. Individuals certified by the State Agronomist who, in turn, can certify other planners. Certification of planners is limited to the State Agronomist or the State Nutrient Management Specialist. Approval authority can be extended to specific staff as determined by the State Nutrient Management Specialist.

A. (10) Control of the Land: Control of the land is defined as owning, leasing or generally in control of the land and/or agronomic operations performed on that unit of land.

A. (11) Second Party Application: Application of animal waste on land units owned or controlled by someone other than where waste is generated.

A. (12) Waste Utilization Evaluation: An analysis to determine nutrient application rates of animal waste based on crop uptake for phosphorus (P).

A. (13) Nutrient Management Plan: A documented record of how nutrients will be used for plant production and environmental protection.

A. (14) Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan: A Nutrient Management Plan that is unique to animal feeding operations (AFO). It is a grouping of conservation practices and management activities which, when implemented as part of a conservation system, will help to ensure that both production and natural resource protection goals are achieved. A CNMP addresses natural resource concerns dealing with soil erosion, manure and organic

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by-products, and their potential impacts on water quality which may derive from an AFO. A CNMP must meet NRCS technical standards. For those elements included by owner and/or operator in a CNMP for which NRCS currently does not maintain technical standards (i.e., feed management, vector control, air quality, etc.), producers should meet criteria established by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), the University of Idaho (UI) or other technically qualified entities. The State Conservationist has the authority to approve non-NRCS criteria established for use in the planning and implementation of CNMP elements.

### 402.3 Certification

A. As a minimum, each NRCS office will include one NRCS staff person as a certified Nutrient Management Planner. Certification will be required to develop, revise and approve nutrient management components of NRCS conservation plans. The Certification requirements are cited in B. below. In addition to the minimum requirements, the Area Conservationist will review the list of Certified Nutrient Management Planners in his/her Area with the Area Resource Conservationist and determine additional certification needs. A list of names will be provided to the State Conservationist by July 31st of each year to allow for the coordination and implementation of the required training.

B. The same procedure is followed by agency or private third party planners to become certified in Idaho. The ISDA and NRCS require the same certification process. The Idaho certification process contains three parts:

Part 1. Complete Part 1 of the Nutrient Management Track of the National Employee Development Center's (NEDC) Nutrient and Pest Management Considerations of Conservation Planning course.

Part 2. Attend a facilitated session to receive formal training in state rules and regulations related to land application of animal waste, if needed, and/or in the use of the Idaho OnePlan Nutrient Management Planning Module and the Idaho Nutrient Management Planner for Commercial Fertilizer.

Part 3. Prepare two (2) nutrient management plans (reference discussion "Number of Plans" below) which are reviewed and approved by the appropriate agency representative.

C. Who has the authority to certify planners?

(1) NRCS will certify nutrient management plans prepared by NRCS, Soil Conservation Commission (SCC), Conservation District or Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District (IASCD) staffs. Submitted plans will be reviewed by the designated Area or Division Nutrient Management Specialist, the State Nutrient Management Specialist or the State Agronomist. When two (2) plans are successfully completed, the individual is certified. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is notified and the individual's name is entered in the State database which tracks certified nutrient management planners. Once certified, planners may self-certify all other plans

they prepare. They MAY NOT certify plans prepared by others. Certifying plans prepared by others is part of the planner certification process which is restricted to designated individuals. Certified planners may, however, certify practice application on any plan developed by a certified planner.

(2) Technical Service Providers: Plans prepared by Technical Service Providers (TSPs) will be reviewed and approved by the appropriate representative of ISDA. When two plans are approved (reference discussion "Number of Plans" below) by ISDA, the person is certified. Once certified, planners may self-certify any other plans they prepare. They MAY NOT certify plans prepared by others. Certifying plans prepared by others is part of the planner certification process which is restricted to designated individuals.

D. Number of Plans Required: Plans which address land application of animal waste also address commercial fertilizer. A person that is initially certified by developing nutrient management plans that include application of animal waste will be required to complete two (2) plans. A person that is initially certified by developing nutrient management plans which include application of commercial fertilizer will be required to complete two (2) plans. If that person later decides to become certified for land application of animal waste, development and approval of two (2) additional plans including that component will be required to insure the planner grasps the concepts of land application of animal waste and how Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) OnePlan addresses those issues.

E. Maintenance of Certification. Certification will be subject to periodic quality reviews as follows:

(1) For Agency Planners: Quality control will be maintained by two (2) review procedures. Any plan which becomes part of a cost share implementation program, federal or state, will be subject to the annual status review process as required by the program. Plans which are not part of a cost share implementation program will be subject to reviews which occur as part of the on-going, field office technical quality review process.

(2) For Technical Service Providers: Technical Service Providers will be subject to the review/quality control program as determined by the state regulatory agency.

#### 402.4 Nutrient Management Plans

A. Plans for nutrient management may be stand alone or be elements of a more comprehensive conservation plan.

(1) Methods: Idaho OnePlan Nutrient Management Planner program (software) is the only recognized method of developing comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs) in Idaho. Plans prepared using the OnePlan program meet the requirements of the Waste Management System (312) and Nutrient Management (590) standards. They do not necessarily meet full Resource Management Plan (RMS) criteria. The most current version of the OnePlan Nutrient Management Planner will be used at all times. All previous versions are cancelled. The Idaho Nutrient Management Planner for

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Commercial Fertilizer (EXCEL spreadsheet) may be used in place of OnePlan for plans that involve commercial fertilizer only (no animal waste applied or exported).

(2) Second Party Application: A CNMP is required when waste is exported for application on land units that receives U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cost share implementation funds when owned or controlled by someone other than where waste is generated. The OnePlan NMP will be used to generate the CNMP in order to determine allowable application rates. The person exporting the waste will be responsible for obtaining a written statement from the second party that sufficient acres are available for waste application at prescribed rates.

### E. Format and appearance of Nutrient Management Plans.

Plans generated using the latest version of the OnePlan NMP meet the minimum criteria for a certified nutrient management plan. Plans generated using the Idaho Nutrient Management Planner for Commercial Fertilizer meet the minimum requirements for a nutrient management plan where only commercial fertilizer is applied.